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FODAG

PARIS FOR MARTIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, EAGR, UN, FAO

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

REF: A. STATE 10697

B. USUN 215

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR MARTIN AND FAO OFFICIALS DISCUSSED ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTION INVOLVING WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, ITS PREP COMM, CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT AND TIMING OF SESSIONS DURING MEETING IN ROME JANUARY 26. FAO NOTED U.S. POINTS AND WILL RESPOND AFTER CONSULTING FAO DG WHO AWAY FROM ROME ON DUTY TRIP. END SUMMARY.

1. SECRETARIAT: DURING HIS SIX-HOUR VISIT TO ROME JANUARY 26, AMBASSADOR MARTIN DISCUSSED SUBSTANTIVE (SEPTTEL) AND ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS INVOLVING THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WITH FAO DDG JACKSON, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMODITY DIRECTOR AZIZ, WALTON (DG'S CHEF DU CABINET) AND

AUBRAC (INFORMATION). MARTIN IN PRIVATE MEETING WITH JACKSON AND LATER IN WIDER GROUP STATED INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING REPORTED RUSSIAN INTEREST IN HIGH LEVEL POSITION IN CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT NOTING BENEFITS OF SUCH AN APPOINTMENT. MARTIN EXPRESSED RESERVATION ON PLANS TO HAVE AZIZ APPOINTED AS A DEPUTY TO CONFERENCE SYG SINCE THIS COULD ENCOURAGE UNCTAD TO PRESS FOR SENIOR APPOINTMENT AS WELL. JACKSON STATED HE WOULD HAVE TO GET DG BOERMA'S REACTION. (HE CURRENTLY ON TRIP TO AFRICA). MARTIN SUGGESTED AZIZ COULD ASSIST SYG MAREI IN ANOTHER CAPACITY AS TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OR COORDINATOR BUT FELT TOP THREE POSITIONS IN SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE GOVERNMENTAL AND REPRESENT LDC'S (MAREI), BLOC AND DCS. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTION ABOUT US INTEREST IN DEPUTY SLOT, MARTIN REPLIED U.S. WAS NEUTRAL, HAD NO CANDIDATE AND FELT ANY CAPABLE DC NOMINEE ACCEPTABLE. JACKSON RAISED INITIAL OBJECTIONS TO RUSSIAN APPOINTMENT AND AZIZ SHIFT BUT IN END STATES VIEWS OF U.S. WOULD BE MADE KNOWN TO BOENMA, JACKSON NOTED UN, UNCTAD AND CONFERENCE SYG MAREI WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE CONSULTED. (MAREI TRANSITING ROME FEB. 1 ON WAY TO LONDON. FAO PLANS AIRPORT MEETING. MAREI ARRIVES NY FEB. 3 AND TAKES OFFICE FEB. 4.).

2. CHAIRMEN PREP COMM: AMBASSADOR MARTIN EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE FOR PERMANENT CHAIRMAN OF PREP COMM WHO COULD WORK WITH SYG MAREI KEEPING PROGRESS MOVING IN SHORT TIME BEFORE WFC. SEVERAL CANDIDATES DISCUSSED BUT FAO INFORMED THAT FACK OF NETHERLANDS UNAVAILABLE AND CONFIRMED SCOTT OF NEW ZEALAND ALSO UNAVAILABLE. BOTH MARTIN AND FAO AGREED CRAWFORD OF AUSTRALIA NOT THE RIGHT MAN. RANKIN OF CANADA NAME RECEIVED NO COMMENT. KRISTENSEN OF DENMARK (SECRETARY OF AGRIC MINISTRY). FAVORABLY MENTIONED ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME DOUBT HE ACCEPTABLE TO LDCS SINCE HE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH OECD. NO OTHER NAMES SURFACED AND DISCUSSION ENDED WITHOUT ANY AGREEMENT.

3. TIMING PREP COMM AND CONFERENCE: TIMING CAUSED DIFFICULTIES DUE CONSTRAINTS OF OTHER UN MEETINGS AND ARRANGEMENTS PLANNED BY ITALIANS IN HOSTING CONFERENCE. IN RESPONSE TO MARTIN'S REQUEST THAT SECOND PREP COMM BE HELD IN LATE JUNE OR JULY, AZIZ NOTED THAT MAY DATES OCCASSIONED BY UNDP AND ECOSOC MEETINGS DURING JUNE/JULY PERIOD. UN BELIEVED THAT OVERLAPPING MEETINS NOT POSSIBLE SINCE MANY COUNTRIES NOT ABLE HANDLE BOTH MEETINGS AND UN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARIAT WOULD BE FULLY OCCUPIED. AZIZ STATED MAIN JOB OF SECOND PREP COMM WOULD BE APPROVE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR CONFERENCE. AZIZ ALSO NOTED PROBLEM OF TIMING OF DOCUMENTATION PRECLUDED MUCH SUBSTANCE BEING DONE AT SECOND PREP COMM SINCE SECRETARIAT HAS TO AWAIT CONCLUSION OF FIRST TO HAVE BASIS FOR PREPARATIONS. THEN PROBLEM OF TRANSLATION INTO UN WORKING LANGUAGES AND DISTRIBUTION TO GOVERNMENTS WITH NECESSARY DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POSITION PRECLUDES MUCH WORK ON SUBSTANCE UNTIL

THIRD PREP

COMM. FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE, WFP IGC AND FISHERY AND
COMMODITY PROBLEM MEETINGS IN SEPT/OCT COMPLICATE THIRD PREP COMM
DATE. ALL EXPECTED DISCUSS WFC TO SOME EXTENT. MARTIN
STATES HE FELT THIRD PREP COMM WOULD DO MOST OF
WORK AND AT LEAST THREE WEEKS NEEDED. BECAUSE OF TIME TO PREPARE
DOCUMENTS FOR WFC, THERE SHOULD BE 4 WEEKS BETWEEN LAST PREP
COMM AND WFC. THIS SUGGESTED SEPT. 23 FOR THIRD PREP COMM. DATES
OF WFC AND FAO COUNCIL MEETINGS ALSO POSED PROBLEMS SINCE ITALIANS
PLANNED TO OPEN WFC AT PALAZZO DEI CONGRESSI AND THIS ONLY
AVAILABLE ON CERTAIN DATES. (SINCE ITALY HOSTING WFC, UNDER USUAL
PRACTICE ITALIAN WOULD BE CHAIRMAN. FAO INFORMED MARTIN EX-
FOREIGN MINISTER MEDICI BEING MENTIONED BY ITALIANS. SUGGESTION
WAS MADE FOR POSTPONING COUNCIL TO DECEMBER TO ALLOW WFC
TO MEET NOVEMBER 18-29. NO FINAL AGREEMENT REACHED ON
ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS.
MARTIN STATED IN HIS VIEW THIRD PREP COMM SHOULD SPEND HALF THE
TIME REACHING AGREEMENTS ON SUBSTANCE AND HALF FRAMING RESOLUTIONS
FOR APPROVAL AT WFC. THIS PROVIDED HEAVY BURDEN OF WORK AND
REQUIRED THAT A GREAT AMOUNT NEGOTIATION WOULD NEED TO BE DONE BETWEEN
PREP COMM MEETINGS; HENCE NEED FOR PERMANENT CHAIRMAN.

4. FOLLOW-UP: JACKSON INDICATED AZIZ AND WALTON WOULD BE IN
NEW YORK WEEK OF FEB. R AND EXPRESSED VIEW MORE DECISIONS WOULD BE
TAKEN ON THESE ISSUES THAT WEEK THAN AT FOLLOWING WEEK DURING
FIRST PREP COMM. AMBASSADOR MARTIN STATED HIS SCHEDULE WOULD
PERMIT PRESENCE IN NEW YORK ONLY SHORTLY PRIOR TO NOVE. 11
BUT HE AGREED THAT U.S. AND FAO MUST REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT AS
IDEAS DEVELOP.

5. ABOVE PREPARED AFTER AMBASSADOR MARTIN DEPARTED ROME AND NOT
CLEARED BY HIM. VOLPE
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